

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN  
SOUTHERN DIVISION

IAN L. LAND,

Plaintiff,

Case No.: 22-cv-12672

Hon. Matthew F. Leitman

-VS-

~~CITY OF DETROIT, a municipal~~  
~~corporation;~~ RYAN RULOFF, individually  
and in his official capacity; and MATTHEW  
WEBB, individually and in his official  
capacity

Defendants.

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**REPLY BRIEF TO DEFENDANTS' MOTION IN LIMINE TO PRECLUDE**  
**ARGUMENT FROM PLAINTIFF THAT HE WAS LAWFULLY**  
**TRANSPORTING HIS PISTOL**

Plaintiff begins his response to Defendants' motion by claiming that Defendants are attempting to turn this civil proceeding into a criminal proceeding. In reality, Defendants are attempting to *avoid* turning this civil proceeding into a criminal trial by bringing this motion. Defendants seek to narrow the issues at trial

and void confusion to the jury. Plaintiff was illegally carrying his firearm, so he should be prohibited from arguing otherwise at trial.

Plaintiff's response to Defendant's motion avoids two important clauses in MCL 750.231a. First, the statute requires the pistol be transported in a closed case "designed for the storage of firearms." Plaintiff has not claimed and does not claim that the "small, light box" his gun was in was a case designed for the storage of firearms. Second, § 231a(1)(e) requires that the pistol be in a location that is "not readily accessible to the occupants of the vehicle." Plaintiff alleges that the pistol was under the back seat of his truck (which Defendants contest). Even if that was true, it is not enough that the pistol be out of Plaintiff's reach. The pistol must be out of the reach of all the occupants of the vehicle. Plaintiff was traveling with his girlfriend, seated in the passenger seat, and two children seated in the back of the truck. (ECF No. 23-3, PageID.260:5-19). Thus, the pistol was readily accessible to occupants of the vehicle.

Therefore, Defendants ask this Honorable Court to preclude argument or suggestion from Plaintiff that he was lawfully transporting his firearm.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Philip J. Hiltner  
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Date: June 30, 2025